

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

POLICY DECISION

**POLICY TITLE: Mainstem Columbia River
Summer Chinook Allocation for
Non-Indian Fisheries Below
Priest Rapids Dam, 2008**

POLICY NUMBER: C-3618

Supersedes: C-3616

Effective Date: February 2, 2008

Termination Date: December 31, 2008

See Also:

Approved by:  , Chair
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

Guiding Principles

- Meet the conservation requirements for summer chinook, expressed as the escapement goal of 20,000 natural and hatchery spawners.
- Meet treaty/non-treaty sharing objectives in the 2005-2007 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement.
- Address Colville and Wanapum tribal subsistence and ceremonial harvest needs.
- Provide recreational fishing opportunity above Priest Rapids Dam as the highest recreational fishery priority.

Fisheries Management Objectives

- Specific structure of sport and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact following stakeholder consultation in the North of Falcon process on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after run size forecasts are available.
- Provide for in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-treaty summer chinook harvest to meet the objectives of both fisheries.
- In shaping fisheries, consult with stakeholders to recognize economic benefits of sport and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River.
- Provide for sport fisheries throughout the Columbia River downstream of Priest Rapids Dam and commercial fisheries below Bonneville Dam.

Recreational and Commercial Allocation of Upriver Summer Chinook Impacts

The allocation of available harvest downstream of Priest Rapids Dam shall be 50% for the recreational fishery and 50% for the commercial fishery. The Commission recognizes that when allowable harvest is either very large or very small, adjustments may need to be made to the allocation based on the capabilities of each fleet.

Delegation of Authority

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission delegates the authority to the Director, through the Columbia River Compact and North of Falcon stakeholder consultation processes, to set seasons for sport and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River, and to adopt permanent and emergency regulations to implement these fisheries. The Director shall work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to achieve implementation of this Commission action in a manner that results in concurrent regulations between the two states. The Director shall consult with the Commission Chair if it becomes necessary to deviate from the Commission's policy to achieve concurrent regulations with Oregon.